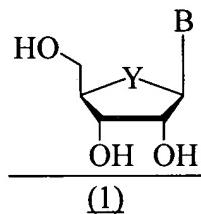


Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the "Abstract of the Invention" with the following paragraph:

The present invention is an An efficient synthetic route to antiviral 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydro-nucleosides, such as 2',3'-dideoxy and 2'- or 3'-deoxyribo-nucleoside analogs, from available precursors is disclosed, with the option of introducing functionality as needed, such as, the 2',3'-dideoxy and 2' or 3' deoxyribo nucleoside analogs as well as additional derivatives obtained by subsequent functional group manipulations. Briefly In one embodiment, the present invention discloses a method for the preparation of β-D and β-L-2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydro-nucleosides-is described that starting from appropriately substituted ribonucleosides in two, optionally three steps: Step (1) a haloacetylation, such as haloacetylation, and in particular, bromoacetylation; Step (2) a reductive elimination; and optionally, Step (3) a deprotection. includes: activating a compound of structure (1)



wherein B is a pyrimidine or purine base and Y is O, S or CH₂ with an acyl halide of the formula X-C(=O)R¹, X-C(=O)C(R¹)₂OC(=O)R¹ or X-C(=O)OR¹ (wherein X is a halogen, and each R¹ is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkyl, aryl or phenyl); reducing the resulting compound with a reducing agent to form a 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydro-nucleoside; and optionally deprotecting the nucleoside. The haloacetylation of the first step-(1) can form the 2'-acyl-3'-halonucleoside, the 3'-acyl-2'-halonucleoside, or a mixture thereof.